

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 9 through 13, 15, and 16 are currently pending in the application. Claims 13 and 16 have been amended herein to correct minor editorial problems. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants enclose an Information Disclosure Statement with this RCE and Amendment to include references recently cited by the Office in co-pending application Serial No. 09/416,368, filed on October 12, 1999, and directed to a related invention. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited in the PTO/SB/08 be made of record herein.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 13 and 16 above should be entered by the Examiner, because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 6, 7, 9 through 13, 15, and 16 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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